Land Exchange Proposed For Ute Indians

A long-time disagreement between Indians and white stockmen was in the process of a peaceable settlement when representatives of the Ute Indian tribe from Uintah and Ouray reservations met with state and federal officials in Salt Lake City to discuss land transfers.

Proposed was a transfer of 34,000 acres of state-owned land inside the reservation to the Indian service in exchange for the same acreage outside the reservation.

According to John S. Boyden, counsel for the Indians, negotiations toward a settlement have been underway since 1948. The plan provides for the federal government to turn over to the state, land outside the Indian area. The land currently is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

The next step will involve mapping of areas proposed for exchange and appraisals of land involved.

The proposed exchange would improve the over-all economy in livestock production in Utah and simplify land management problems for all concerned, Mr. Boyden said.